

2. Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of operation of a networked device in a network having at least one other device, the method including:

 sending ~~(104)~~ a simple device description query message to ~~the~~ at least one other device requesting a simple device description;

 receiving ~~(106)~~ from the at least one other device a simple device description message of defined length including a device type value representing the type of the at least one other device;

 sending ~~(108)~~ an extended device description query message to the at least one other device requesting an extended device description from the at least one other device; and

 receiving ~~(110)~~ from the other device an extended device description of variable length.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 further including establishing ~~(102)~~ the network address of ~~another device or other devices~~ one or more additional devices before the step of sending ~~(104)~~ a simple device description to ~~the~~ at least one other device.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the simple device description message ~~(230)~~ is in the form of a token-compressed message compressed from a human-readable message format, the message including a device type value ~~(232)~~ representing the type of the at least one other device; the device type value being selected

from a device type hierarchy having predetermined top level elements including a controller device type (52) and a basic device type (54), and at least one further level of subsidiary device types depending from the basic device type and inheriting properties of higher level device types on which the subsidiary device type depends, but not including any further level of subsidiary device types depending from the controller device type.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3 wherein the networked device is a controller device (2) comprising a list (24) of device types that the controller can control.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, the method further including determining whether the networked device can control another device by: determining the lowest level of device type that either is the device type of ~~the other~~ the at least one other device or is a higher level device type from which the device type of ~~the other~~ the at least one other device depends, in the list of device types that can be controlled by the controller, to determine the extent to which the networked device can control ~~the other~~ the at least one other device.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5 further including: receiving a controller query message from another device including an requested device type value to request whether the controller is able to control a device of the requested device type; and responding with a controller response message including a device type value representing the lowest level of device type in the list of device types that either is the requested device type or is a higher level device type from which the requested device type depends.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2 wherein the predetermined top level elements in the device type hierarchy further include a composite device type, and the networked device is of the composite device type having the functionality of an

integer number of other devices, the method further comprising: responding to a received simple device description query message by sending a simple device description message ~~(230)~~ including the device type value ~~(232)~~ representing the device as a composite device and further an integer sub-device number being the number ~~(234)~~ of other devices.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of operation of a networked device, including:

receiving ~~(104)~~ a simple device description query message from one of ~~the a~~ plurality of other devices requesting a simple device description; sending ~~(106)~~ to the one ~~other~~ device a simple device description message of defined length including a device type value representing ~~the a~~ type of the networked device; receiving ~~(108)~~ an extended device description query message from the ~~other one~~ device requesting an extended device description from the networked device; and sending ~~(110)~~ to the ~~other one~~ device an extended device description of variable length.

9. (Currently Amended) A networked device, including: a transceiver ~~(8)~~ for sending and receiving messages; and a message handler ~~(26, 182)~~ arranged to carry out the steps of: on receiving ~~(104)~~ a simple device description query message from one of ~~the other a~~ plurality of devices, sending ~~(106)~~ to the ~~other one~~ device a simple device description message of defined length including a device type value representing ~~the a~~ type of the networked device; and on receiving ~~(108)~~ an extended device description query message from another ~~one of the plurality of devices~~ device sending ~~(110)~~ to the ~~other one~~ device an extended device description of variable length.

10. (Currently Amended) A networked device according to claim 9 wherein the simple device description message ~~(230)~~ is in the form of a token-compressed message compressed from a human-readable message format, the simple device description message including a device type value ~~(232)~~ representing the type of the other device; the device type value being selected from a device type hierarchy having predetermined top level elements including a controller device type ~~(52)~~ and a basic device type ~~(54)~~, and at

least one further level of subsidiary device types depending from the basic device type and inheriting properties of higher level device types on which ~~thea~~ subsidiary device type depends, but not including any further level of subsidiary device types depending from the controller device type.

11. (Currently Amended) A networked device, including: a transceiver ~~(8)~~ for sending and receiving messages~~[[:]]~~; a message handler ~~(26, 182)~~ arranged to carry out the steps of: sending a simple device description query message to another device requesting a simple device description; receiving from the another ~~other~~ device a simple device description message of fixed length including a device type value representing ~~thea~~ type of the ~~other~~another device and a field indicating whether an extended device description is available; and further arranged to optionally carry out the steps of: testing the simple device description message to determine whether an extended device description is available; sending an extended device description query message to the ~~other~~another device requesting an extended device description from the ~~other~~another device; and receiving from the ~~other~~another device an extended device description of variable length.

12. (Currently Amended) A networked device according to claim 11 wherein the simple device description message ~~(230)~~ is in the form of a token-compressed message compressed from a human-readable message format, the simple device description message including a device type value ~~(232)~~ representing ~~thea~~ type of the ~~other~~another device; the device type value being selected from a device type hierarchy having predetermined top level elements including a controller device type ~~(52)~~ and a basic device type ~~(54)~~, and at least one further level of subsidiary device types depending from the basic device type and inheriting properties of higher level device types on which the subsidiary device type depends, but not including any further level of ~~the~~ subsidiary device types depending from the controller device type.

13. (Original) A networked device according to claim 12 wherein the networked device

has the controller device type, wherein the networked device comprises a list of device types that can be controlled by the networked device, so that the networked device can determine the extent to which the networked device can control another device by determining the lowest level of device type that either is the device type of the ~~other~~another device or is a higher level device type from which the device type of the ~~other~~another device depends, in the list of device types that can be controlled by the controller.

14. (Original) A networked device according to claim 13 wherein the message handler is arranged: to receive a controller query message from ~~another~~a further device including an requested device type value to request whether the controller is able to control a device of the requested device type; and to respond with a controller response message including a device type value representing the lowest level of device type in the list of device types that either is the requested device type or is a higher level device type from which the requested device type depends.

15. (Original) A system, comprising a plurality of networked devices each having a transceiver for sending and receiving network messages; at least one networked device arranged to send a simple device query message to other devices and to receive and interpret simple device description messages subsequently received from the other devices; at least one networked device arranged to send an extended device query message to other devices and to receive and interpret extended device description messages subsequently received from the ~~another~~other devices; each of the networked devices being arranged to respond to an incoming simple device query message from another of the devices by sending a simple device description message of defined length including a device type value representing the type of the ~~another~~another device; and at least one of the networked devices is arranged to respond to an incoming extended device query message from ~~another of the devices~~an additional device by sending an extended device description message.

16. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 15, wherein the plurality of networked devices include at least one simple device without the capability to decompress messages and interpreting directly compressed messages and at least one complex device including a message decompression arrangement ~~(184)~~ for decompressing the messages and a message interpreter for interpreting the decompressed messages.

17. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 15 or 16 wherein the predetermined top level elements further include a composite device type; the system includes at least one networked device of the composite device type having the functionality of a predetermined number of other devices, the predetermined number being an integer greater than or equal to 2; and each of the at least one networked device of the composite device type responds to an incoming device query message requiring a simple device description by sending a simple device description ~~(230)~~ including the device type ~~(232)~~ as a composite device and a sub-device number ~~(234)~~ representing the predetermined number of other devices.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer program for controlling a networked device, the computer program being arranged to cause the networked device to carry out the steps of a method according to any of claims 1 ~~to 8~~ or 2.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program for controlling a networked device, the networked device having a transport stack and an application, the computer program comprising:

code implementing a transport adaption layer ~~(180)~~ for interfacing with the transport stack;

code implementing an application programming interface ~~(186)~~ for interfacing with the application; and code implementing a messaging layer ~~(182)~~ including the

capabilities of sending and receiving messages in a token-encoded human readable messaging format, the code being arranged to cause the networked device: to recognise incoming device query messages requiring a simple device description response and to provide a simple device description response including a device type; and to recognise incoming device query messages requiring an extending device description and to respond with an extended device description.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program according to claim 18 or 19 recorded on a data carrier ~~(14)~~.

21. (Currently Amended) A network establishment and management protocol for controlling electronic devices, the protocol being recorded on a record medium, the protocol comprising: a compression algorithm ~~(210)~~ defining the mechanism for compression of said messages a definition ~~(200)~~ of a generic message format, the messages being compressed XML compliant messages; and a definition ~~(204)~~ of message sequencing requirements.

22. (Original) A system in accordance with a network establishment and management protocol for combining electronic devices according to claim 21.